Minutes Meeting of 1/13/04

The meeting commenced with a discussion of workgroup changes: Dave Simon will be on the Standards – Building Codes Workgroup, not the Renewables Workgroup; and Chuck McGinnis is now on the Administrative Model and Funding for Energy Efficiency Workgroup.

With regard to the research papers on Task Force issues, the State Budget Office presented two memos providing information requested by Task Force members, including the administrative model, proposed legislation, the Iowa Energy Bank and information on the DOA facilities management unit.

An Energy Efficiency Potential Study was discussed, including the cost of the study and a timeframe as to its completion, and PSC approval for such a study. The study is viewed as being an informational aid to policymakers and the Task Force. A proposal was made by the Task Force Chair that he draft a letter to the PSC encouraging them to approve the study and advising that a small group from the Task Force is available to meet with PSC staff to discuss the study.

Senator Cowles distributed a memo summarizing pending bills for the Task Force to consider for the Spring Legislative Session. A chart from the "2004 All States Tax Handbook" was also distributed regarding energy saving – tax benefits. David Helbach distributed a handout regarding the shared savings program of Alliant based on the previously distributed Focus on Energy slide from the 11-25-03 Janet Brandt presentation.

There was discussion as to the scope of the Task Force's mission regarding energy efficiency and renewables and the goal of keeping initiatives reasonable and as close to consensus as possible. It was decided to focus on the Spring Legislative Session first, and to get policy proposals to the Chair of the Other Statutory and Regulatory Initiatives Workgroup as soon as possible.

There was also discussion regarding protecting Focus on Energy dollars and appropriate use of funds and the possibility of increasing the PSC's role.

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A summary of the meeting of the Workgroup chairs followed. It was requested that workgroups set a regular meeting schedule and set deadlines. Cecilia Stodd of the Department of Administration and Linda Hajek of Lee Cullen's office will assist the workgroup chairs.

Dialogue followed regarding the public participation issue. The workgroup chairs will decide whether they want meetings with public input at their workgroup meetings. After input from all workgroups, the Task Force will likely hold a public meeting (late summer).

Workgroup reports are as follows:

1. Administrative Model and Funding for Energy Efficiency

Now scheduling first meeting, which will decide the scope of the workgroup, develop an issues list, and establish a set of meeting dates and timeline for workgroup tasks.

2. Other Statutory and Regulatory Initiatives

First meeting scheduled for 1-13-04. Will be discussing current issues and assigning bill drafts or additional research information. Will be providing information to 2-17-04 Task Force meeting for Spring Legislative Session consideration.

3. Renewables

Had first meeting and have shifted some initiatives to Statutory Workgroup and others to Administrative Model Workgroup. Research needs yet to be identified. This workgroup's interests include the state renewable energy purchasing initiative and creating an exemption from state sales tax for renewable energy. The State Budget Office will research fiscal data available from Department of Revenue regarding these.

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4. Standards – Building Codes

Workgroup is scheduling first meeting. The WE Energies Building Code Collaborative has meeting scheduled and are on parallel basis with this workgroup. They have already done extensive research and are preparing a report on commercial and residential recommendations. The Standards workgroup will identify any legislative issues to the Task Force to be considered for the September session.

Members of the workgroups, including staffing, are as follows:

1. Administrative Model and Funding for Energy Efficiency

Sen. Cowles

George Edgar (Co-chair)

Kris Euclide (Co-chair)

Larry Salustro

David Helbach

Roy Thilly

Peter Bock

Nino Amato

Chuck McGinnis

Staffing: PSC (Carol Stemrich)

State Budget Office (Sarah Justus & Cindy Dombrowski)

Leg Council (David Lovell & John Stolzenberg)

2. Other Statutory and Regulatory Initiatives

Rep. Jensen

Brian Rude (Chair)

Keith Reopelle

Tom Meinz

Forrest Ceel

Staffing: Dept. of Administration (John Marx)

State Budget Office (Sarah Justus & Cindy Dombrowski)

Leg Council (David Lovell & John Stolzenberg)

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3. Renewables

Rep. Black Michael Vickerman (Co-chair) Don Reck (Co-chair) Mark Williamson Charlie Higley

Staffing: PSC (Paul Helgeson)

Leg Council (David Lovell & John Stolzenberg)

4. Standards – Building Codes

Sen. Risser
Jim Boullion (Chair)
Randy Schneider
Dave Simon
Doug Johnson

Staffing: Dept. of Commerce (Robert Dupont)

Leg Council (David Lovell & John Stolzenberg)

A request was made that Sen. Risser also participate in the Other Statutory and Regulatory Initiatives Workgroup.

The Task Force meetings are scheduled through 2004 on the third Tuesday of the month, with the next Task Force meeting scheduled for February 17, 2004 commencing at 9:30 a.m. in the Governor's Conference Room.